

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, March 5, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, March 5, 1844.

My D'r sir, Since the receipt of the letter of your dear daughter Lizzie, I have not heard from you, but I hope that before this your health has been perfectly restored. You have and will continue to have great labour to perform during the ensuing summer and autum, and I hope you will enjoy good health to enable you to perform it with your usual judgtment and talents. From the signs of the times in our state, I think the people are fast seeing the errors, by coons, coonskens, sour cider, and big balls, they have been lead into, to the destruction of all good morals and religion and are turning from there mummeries and idoletry with much disgust—several have lately told me that they would not, nay will not vote for such an immoral man as Clay, his associates at Neworleans, the Bear, the pumpborer, Poindexture and Prentise has done him much harm.

I received a few days ago, letters from Genl. McGinnis and Mr. M. Blair St Louis, From which it appears that, Mr Penn jnr. is carrying on a war against Col. Benton. I regret this, but be assured that penn will destroy himself by this uncalled for and unritious persecution of Benton. Penn has lost many friends in Tennessee by this wanton, and is believed unprovoked attack upon Benton. My own oppinion is, that Penns attack will recoil upon him and fall harmless at Col. Bentons feet. you will, I suppose, see my letter soon published in the Missourian.

class=MsoNormal>0296 272

Library of Congress

The important question, the Oregon and annexation of Texas, are now all important to the security and the future peace and prosperity of our union, and I hope there are a sufficient number of pure american democrats to carry into effect the annexation of Texas, and extending our laws over Oregon. No temporising policy or all is lost, except by bloody and expensive wars to regain what at present is our own, Oregon, and Texas which was ours, and must be ours, or the safety of the south and west is put in Jeopardy, with Neworleans, with all the horrors of a servile war and its consequences, aided as it will, by great Britain, and the blue light abolitionists of the north and East. I hope the annexation of Texas may be promptly done, or necessity must arise to compell Texas to make terms with great Britain, which may destroy our revenue and endanger Neworleans. Feeble as I am, I cannot refrain from writing you on this subject believing it to be all important to the safety, and prosperity of our country.

Day before yesterday I had to bleed. I am better from it, how long I cannot say. We have at last fine balmy days, perhaps such weather may give me a little more health and strength, I am very feeble. My whole Houshold unite with me in kind salutations to you and yours. We always include Mrs. and Mr. Lee in your family. 1 I have rode out one half mile this morning. May god bless and preserve you and yours. yr friend,

1 Lieut. Samuel Phillips Lee, U. S. N., afterward rear-admiral, had married Elizabeth Blair, daughter of Francis P. Blair.